

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
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REC'D 17 AUG 2005

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10-334PCT DHL:MM	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/NZ2004/000177	International filing date (day/month/year) 9 August 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 9 August 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ A01K 11/00, G09F 3/00		
Applicant ALLFLEX AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 4 sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 11 February 2005	Date of completion of the report 4 August 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer COLIN FITZGIBBON Telephone No. (02) 6283 2226

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))

☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)

☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1, 2 and 4 to 14 as originally filed/furnished

pages* 3 received by this Authority on 24 January 2005 with the letter of 18 January 2005

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

☒ the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* 15 to 17 received by this Authority on 24 January 2005 with the letter of 18 January 2005

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

☒ the drawings:

pages 1 /4 to 4/4 as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000177

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 to 20	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1 to 20	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 to 20	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1 to 20 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2) for novelty. The prior art published before the priority date does not disclose a system for identification of animals, including an animal identification device adapted for application to an animal and removably secured to the identification device a storage device for secure storage of organic material taken from the animal to be identified by the identification device, the identification device and the storage device being removably retained in a holder device, the storage device and identification device each being marked by a common identifier. The closest art is considered to be EP 1 060 662 A1 (Pragmatic Network Creations ETS), however this does not disclose the storage device being removably secured to the identification device and identification device and the storage device being removably retained in a holder device. The inventions as defined in Claims 1 to 20 are therefore considered to be novel.

Similarly, there is no teaching in any of the citations towards these features, hence the claims can be considered to involve an inventive step over them, in accordance with PCT Article 33(3).

conjunction with an animal e.g. an eartag, a device for secure storage of sample organic material etc. As a consequence, the integrity of the information is not assured, as it is open to human error.

For example, it is common that the markings which correlate a biological sample to an identification means (whether it be visual or electronic) carried by the animal, is achieved by the farmer or a technician physically marking the sample and/or the on-animal identification device. Consequently, there is a high degree of possibility that the device storing the biological sample will be provided with an incorrect marking for the animal from which the sample was taken.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a method and means of providing a more secure arrangement for ensuring that a biological sample taken from an animal is correctly identified as coming from that particular animal.

Broadly according to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a system for identification of animals, the system including an animal identification device adapted for application to an animal and removably secured to the identification device a storage device for secure storage of organic material taken from the animal to be identified by the identification device, the identification device and storage device being removably retained in a holder device, said storage device and identification device each being marked with a common identifier.

The holder can be in the form of a moulded tray.

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CLAIMS:

1. A system for identification of animals, the system including an animal identification device (12,13) adapted for application to an animal and removably secured to the identification device a storage device (17) for secure storage (17) of organic material taken from the animal to be identified by the identification device, the identification device (12,13) and the storage device (17) being removably retained in a holder (11) device, said storage device (17) and identification device (12,13) each being marked with a common identifier (18,18a).
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the holder can be in the form of a moulded tray (11).
3. The system of claim 1 or 2 wherein the identification device is an animal eartag or a bolus.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the eartag is a two-component eartag (12,13).
5. The system of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the storage device (17) is removably secured to the or one component (12) of the eartag.
6. The system of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the identification device can also be formed by an electronic identification device (27).

7. The system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the common identifier (18,18a) is an alpha, numeric or alphanumeric marking.
8. The system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the common identifier is an on-farm management identifier used for visual identification of the animal.
9. The system of claim 6 wherein the common identifier can be part of the unique number (29) of an electronic identification device (27).
10. The system of claim 2 wherein the tray (11) includes a recess (14) configured to removably retain the head of a male part (12) of an eartag which forms the identification device.
11. The system of claim 10 wherein the tray (11) includes a retention device with which a female part (13) of the eartag is removably retained.
12. The system of claim 10 wherein the retention device includes a recess (16) in which a part of the female part of the eartag can reside, and a stud onto which the female part can be installed.
13. The system of claim 10 further including a second recess (26) for the head of a male part (28) of a second identification device and a second recess (25) with stud (15) for a female part of a second identification device.

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14. The system of claim 13 wherein the second identification device is an electronic identification device (29).
15. The system of any one of claims 10 to 14 wherein the tray (11) is formed as one of a plurality of conjoined trays.
16. The system of any one of claims 10 to 15 wherein the tray (11) is of a plastic moulded form.
17. The system of any one of claims 10 to 16 wherein the common identifier is an on-farm management identifier used for visual identification purposes.
18. The system of claim 17 wherein the common identifier forms part of a unique number of an electronic identification device.
19. A method of identification of an animal including providing an animal identification device marked with an identifier marking, a secure storage device, the secure storage device also being marked with the same identifier marking, taking a sample of organic material from the animal and placing the sample in the secure storage device and applying the identification device to the animal and placing the storage device in a secure storage facility.
20. A system for identification of animals substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.